

EMERALD ASH BORER – E.A.B.

The E.A.B. has already been responsible for the death of 25 million ash trees in the U.S.A. It has a very strong foot hold in Michigan and parts of Ohio, Illinois, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Maryland, Wisconsin, Canada and Minnesota.

Adult beetles are bright metallic green with a purplish-red abdomen. Their back is flat thus emerging through a D-shape hole in May and into June. The D-shape hole is about ¼” or smaller. The adults feed on the leaves and need a few days of feeding before mating. The female lays her eggs in about one(1) to two(2) weeks. She will lay about 30 to 60 eggs. She can mate several times. Some longer live females can lay up to 200 eggs. She lays her eggs in the bark crevices near the top of the tree, where it is warm and sunny. The eggs hatch in 7 to 10 days. The larvae chew through to bark, into the phloem and cambial region. That’s where the destruction begins. The larvae feeds, creating S-shape galleries and depositing fine saw-like frass. The larvae grows to about 1” to 1 ½”. It’s cream-colored and flat. The mouth parts are only visible. The body has 10 segments and the last part has a pair of brown pincers at the end. By Fall the larvae are usually done feeding. The larvae become a prepupal larvae and stays over winter in shallow chambers in the outer sapwood or if the tree is thick barked the larvae will be in the bark. The pupation starts in late April and into May. The beetle merges and starts the cycle over.

The key signs to watch for are die back of the leaves in the upper parts of the tree and slowly progresses downward. The bark can split vertical over the feeding galleries. You may notice woodpeckers feeding on the trees.

All species of ash trees are at risk. A mountain ash tree is not in the ash family. E.A.B. feeds on healthy as well as stressed trees, even volunteers.

Infested trees are to be removed and stay local. The E.A.B. are poor fliers so please Don’t Move Firewood!

- Real Solution & Pest Alert